

# The Malpractice Question—What is Being Done?

□ In a dramatic way, the malpractice crisis of last year brought directly before the public questions about the quality of health care that those of us engaged in the functioning of the system have been concerned with for many years.

□ Beyond the sound and fury surrounding malpractice is the patient who, ultimately, seeks and accepts or rejects the services of medicine, law, and the insurance industry. Conversely, the patient is the one who will pay the extra costs, endure the inconveniences, and personally share the successes or failures of the medical profession.

□ The Health Resources Administration's National Center for Health Services Research has long been concerned with the issues of malpractice and their effect on the public. The Center has funded several efforts to investigate the malpractice phenomenon and the questions that surround it.

□ Center-funded projects include an analysis of lawyers' views of malpractice; a view of malpractice in Michigan; a look at "insurance pools" for covering malpractice; a study of legal issues in health care; an analysis of how health disputes are resolved; and an investigation of discipline in the medical profession. The Center has a medical malpractice information center that provides lists of resources and research assistance. It also funds conference grants for the development and evaluation of research programs on medical malpractice.

□ However, knowing the problem is only one side of the coin. Finding the cause and effect, as well as the solutions to the questions, is the other. We in the Health Resources Administration see the quality of

health care and the public's perception of that quality as the real root cause of the current malpractice dilemma.

□ The health industry is big business today. And, as the demand increases and the tempo quickens, we must constantly be concerned with methods and programs for monitoring, evaluating, and upgrading the systems of care that we use on a day-to-day basis.

□ Sophisticated technology has much to offer in helping the physician to do a better and more thorough job and in assuring a certain level of quality for the patient. The Center has funded grants and contracts to investigate and develop computer-based information systems that can be invaluable as a method of monitoring and auditing patient care. Properly designed computer systems can also help physicians in making diagnostic and therapeutic decisions. At the same time, these systems can be used as a tool to help patients understand their treatment, which is essential for self-care patients such as diabetics.

□ Self-care is a new direction in health care that will have the corollary effect of reducing the number of malpractice complaints. The more involved patients become in their own diagnoses and treatment, the more likely it is that they will understand their particular treatment and its limitations.

□ Because we need to know more about the effectiveness of self-care programs, the Center has funded a 2-year controlled experimental program in an existing health maintenance organization in Boise, Idaho. The Center has also sponsored the first national conference on self-care research in March 1976; partici-

pated in a national survey of health care systems; and worked with others in the Department of Education, and Welfare in a comprehensive review of research demonstration contracts in 1975.

□ We must begin to share the experience of medicine with the most directly affected—the patient. When we can look at our health care system and see one that empowers the physician all the techniques of help that he requires and allows a system with active patient participation, then perhaps malpractice will cease to be a crisis issue.

Kenneth M. Emswiler  
Administrator

Health Resources Administration

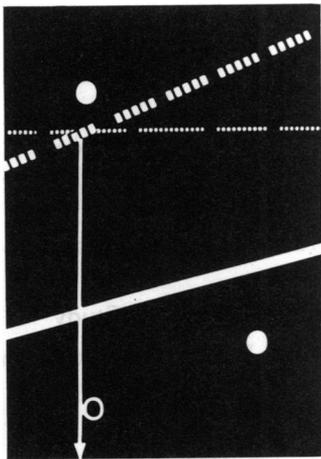
Cover—Two aspects of HMOs are presented in this issue. One article examines the reasons for terminating HMOs funded before the HMO Act was signed (pp. 496-503); another article describes a survey undertaken to determine the composition of subscribers to a rural group practice plan (pp. 504-507).



Editorial. The malpractice question—what is being done? □ *Kenneth M. Endicott* (cover 2)

- 491 Untoward outcomes of health care—who is liable □ *Theodore Cooper*
- 493 Federal health services grants, 1965–75 □ *Daniel I. Zwick and Clyde J. Behney*
- 496 Why some HMOs develop slowly □ *George B. Strumpf and Marie A. Garramone*
- 504 Composition of the subscribers in a rural prepaid group practice plan □ *Gregory R. Nycz, Frederick J. Wenzel, Francis N. Lohrenz, and John H. Mitchell*
- 508 Quantitative relationships between perceived and objective need for health care—dentistry as a model □ *Donald B. Giddon, Marilyn Mosier, Theodore Colton, and John S. Bulman*
- 514 Screening and referral outcomes of school-based health services in a low-income neighborhood □ *Shu-Ping May Lan, Regina Loewenstein, Calvin Sinnette, Constance Rogers, and Lloyd Novick*
- 521 Design and test of a system for tracking referrals □ *Karl E. Bauman and Martie Coulter*
- 526 Prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* antibodies among veterinary college staff and students, Iowa State University □ *W. J. Zimmermann*
- 533 Schooling, occupational motivation, and personality as related to success in paramedical training □ *Richard F. Booth, Evelyn G. Webster, and Michael S. McNally*
- 538 Some economic and financial considerations of health and medical care among three-generational families □ *Theodor J. Litman*
- 541 Youth health services at a resort □ *Patricia A. Ford*
- 545 Home health services in New Hampshire □ *Frank A. Hale and Arthur R. Jacobs*

IN THIS ISSUE ▽ 508 ▽ 526



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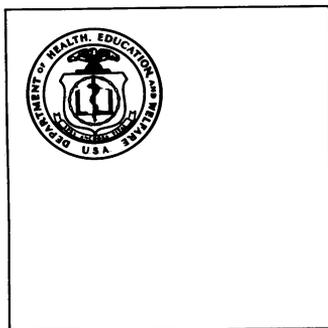
- 552 The Michigan Ambulatory Medical Care Survey □ *Richard G. Cornell, Larry E. Brown, and Thomas J. Tomberlin*
- 556 Sample design for a survey of immunization levels of children in licensed day-care facilities in North Carolina □ *Kathryn B. Surlles and Paul W. C. Johnson*
- 560 Accidental carbon monoxide poisonings in Colorado and Wyoming, 1971-73 □ *E. P. Savage, J. W. Malberg, H. W. Wheeler, and J. D. Tessari*
- 563 Bicentennial reprint. Public health administration and the citizen (June 12, 1914) □ *C. W. Stiles*

**PROGRAMS, PRACTICES, PEOPLE**

- 565 Physicians must be warned on prescribing tranquilizers during first trimester
- 565 HRA awards contract for national study of medical care expenditures
- 566 ESR spectroscopy resource funded by NIH aids in probing living matter
- 566 1977 Conference on Transfer of Water Resources Knowledge
- 567 Society for Biomaterials meeting and 9th International Biomaterials Symposium
- 567 New book seeks to answer questions about civil rights of mentally disabled
- 567 Film on measuring blood pressure now available on free loan
- 567 Grant to study early diagnosis of cerebral palsy in infancy
- 568 Prostatic cancer in men can be detected by blood test
- 568 Bicentennial book traces U.S. health policy
- 568 Combined preventive measures further reduce tooth decay
- 569 International network set up by NLM for the exchange of biomedical information
- 569 Studies show increased risk of cancer among workers in metal-related occupations
- 570 HRA announces publication of "Health Care: an International Study"
- 570 3-year-old periodical "Alcohol Health and Research World" to go only to paid subscribers
- 571 New growth charts for American youngsters released by NCHS
- 571 "State and County Mental Hospitals, United States, 1973-74" issued by NIMH
- 571 Data on 9,080 cancer patients from N.Y. and Pa. hospitals for 1970-73 are available
- 572 Papers for health planners—monograph on health goals and standards issued by HRA
- 572 New breath test devised for impaired ability to digest milk
- 572 Bibliographies available from National Library of Medicine
- 573 Education notes
- 575 Publications
- 577 1976 index
- PHR bookshelf offer (cover 3)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
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Public Health Service  
Health Resources Administration

76-1. Government/non-government funding of cancer detection and therapy. January 1973 through November 1975. 72 citations.

76-2. Amniocentesis. January 1973 through December 1975. 308 citations.

76-3. Nutrition and mental development. January 1973 through December 1975. 109 citations.

76-4. Human experimentation. January 1973 through December 1975. 291 citations.

76-5. Confidentiality of medical records. January 1973 through December 1975. 106 citations.

76-6. Ethnic and racial factors in hypertension. January 1973 through December 1975. 78 citations in English.

76-7. Medicine and health in China. January 1973 through December 1975. 279 citations.

76-8. Dental care for the handicapped. January 1973 through December 1975. 206 citations.

76-9. Problem-oriented medical records. January 1973 through December 1975. 174 citations.

76-10. Genetic counseling. February 1974 through December 1975. 366 citations. (Updates L.S. 74-3.)

76-11. Adverse effects of oral contraceptives as related to blood coagulation. January 1974 through December 1975. 148 citations.

76-12. Trauma and cancer. January 1973 through December 1975. 41 citations.

76-13. Attitude towards death. January 1974 through February 1976. 156 citations in English.

76-14. Water fluoridation. January 1974 through January 1976. 88 citations in English.

76-15. Hyperalimentation. January 1974 through January 1976. 234 citations.

76-16. Radiation-induced neoplasms. January 1974 through February 1976. 120 citations in English.

76-17. Sudden unexpected death in infants. January 1974 through March 1976. 159 citations.

76-18. Sudden cardiac death. January 1974 through March 1976. 277 citations.

76-19. Health services for adolescents. January 1974 through March 1976. 312 citations.

76-20. Aspirin and blood coagula-

tion. January 1974 through April 1976. 121 citations.

76-21. Pesticides and the ecosystem. January 1974 through April 1976. 95 citations in English.

76-22. Carcinoembryonic antigen and cancer. January 1974 through April 1976. 188 citations in English.

76-23. Histones and gene expression. January 1974 through April 1976. 55 citations.

76-24. Psychosurgery. January 1974 through April 1976. 252 citations.

76-25. Recombinant DNA. January 1974 through April 1976. 174 citations.

76-26. Sex roles: their influence on individual behavior and on social institutions. January 1974 through April 1976. 275 citations.

76-27. Herbal medicine. January 1974 through May 1976. 121 citations.

76-28. Licorice in the treatment of peptic ulcer. January 1974 through May 1976. 56 citations.

76-29. Swine influenza. January 1966 through May 1976. 148 citations.

76-30. Post-partum depression. January 1974 through May 1976. 44 citations.

76-31. Sarcoidosis. January 1974 through May 1976. 361 citations in English or with English abstract.

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## education notes

**Family Planning Training Institute.** Through the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Inc., the Family Planning Institute of the Planned Parenthood Association of Maryland offers full and partial tuition scholarships for health professionals working in family planning or related areas to enable them to attend family planning workshops at the Institute during the period September 1976-June 1977. Workshops will be offered for all levels of family planning personnel. Some workshops are specifically designed for nurses and social workers. Special programs are also included on such topics as Adolescent Family Planning Service Delivery, Contraceptive Update, Techniques for Sex Education, and Interviewing and Counseling in Family Planning.

To be eligible, the person must be actively working in a family planning or allied health program. He or she

must be a professional health worker, a term which is meant to include a broad range of personnel from outreach workers and aides to physicians. The scholarships are not available to consumers or volunteers. The training must help the person become better prepared to discharge his or her current family planning function. The trainee must be a U.S. citizen or have in his possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States.

Priority will be given to registrants from rural areas where there is a critical lack of trained manpower in family planning. Scholarships will not be awarded to persons from agencies having training funds for family planning. Travel and per diem expenses cannot be paid.

Application materials and the Institute's 1976-77 training calendar may be obtained by writing to Mrs. Mary L.

Craig, Director, Family Planning Institute, 610 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md. 21201, telephone (301) 685-0940.

**Symposium on Biofeedback, Meditation, and Self-Regulatory Therapies.** Public Programs and Continuing Education, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of Human Knowledge, is sponsoring a week-end symposium, January 22-23, 1977. The symposium has been approved for up to 12 hours of category I (formally constituted program) credit toward the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award. The fee is \$85.

For further information, write Ms. Mae Ling Yee, Continuing Education in Health Sciences, 1308 3d Ave., University of California, San Francisco, Calif. 94143, or call (415) 666-2894.

**New York State Society of Physicians' Assistants.** The second annual conference of the New York State Society of Physicians' Assistants will be held February 26-27, 1977, at the Albany Hyatt House, Albany, N.Y. Nine hours of formal continuing medical education will be offered, and plans are underway to offer some self-teaching continuing medical education. Issues of importance to physicians' assistants nationally and in the northeastern United States will be discussed.

Persons desiring further information on registration should write New York State Society of Physicians' Assistants, 111 E. 210th St., Bronx, N.Y. 10467.

**Research Fellowships to Sweden and Switzerland.** The Swedish Medical Research Council and the Swiss National Science Foundation will each make available in 1977 three research fellowships to qualified biomedical scientists, the Fogarty International Center has announced. These fellowships will provide postdoctoral training in basic or clinical areas of medical research.

To be eligible, candidates must be U.S. citizens and have been engaged in independent responsible research in one of the health sciences for at least 2 of the past 4 years. They must present evidence of aptitude and promise in basic sciences or clinical research, have an active interest in pursuing a research career in a health science field, and provide evidence of acceptance by a training institution and preceptor.

The Swiss fellowship may begin any time between September 1977 and April 1978; the Swedish fellowship must be started within 10 months of the date of its award. The fellowship dates are to be set by mutual agreement of applicant and institution.

Stipends for the Swedish grants range from \$10,000 to \$13,600 per year, depending upon the number of years of postdoctoral research experience the person has at the time of the award. Stipends for the Swiss grants range from \$9,000 to \$11,400, depending upon the person's age and experience at the time of the award. In addition, the Swiss grants provide approximately \$1,450 for the spouse, \$480 for each child, and a cost-of-living adjustment.

Application materials may be obtained from Scholars and Fellowships Program Branch, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. 20014. For further information contact Mrs. Fineham (301) 496-6056. The deadline for receipt of applications is January 1, 1977. All correspondence with the Fogarty International Center concerning these fellowships must be clearly marked for either "Swedish Medical Research Council Fellowship" or "Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship."

**Courses to train physicians for positions of organizational leadership.** The American Academy of Medical Directors, in cooperation with the American Group Practice Foundation, has been awarded a 3-year grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to train physicians for positions of organizational leadership.

Two 5-day courses will be conducted in 11 locations throughout the country. Each course has been designed to provide the physician with the perspective, insights, and skills of management necessary in fulfilling such roles as chief medical executive, medical director, vice president of professional affairs, and other similar positions. The faculty will consist of recognized management authorities from the nation's leading schools of management, independent management consultants, practicing medical directors, and administrators. Topics to be covered are: analyzing trends in the social, political, and economic environments; analyzing organizations and developing organizational strategies; building a leadership profile and choosing a leadership style; setting standards of performance and measuring performance; managing conflict and change; and financial management and decision making.

For further information, write Roger S. Schenke, Project Director, The Physician in Management, 20 South Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

**Doctoral study in social work and social science.** The University of Michigan provides an interdepartmental doctoral program in social work and social science that combines social work with economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

The program is intended to develop special competence in one of the social sciences and in one area of social welfare. The training is viewed as a valuable preparation for leadership in selected social welfare positions involving teaching, research, policy, and administration. Since advanced training in practical skills, per se, is not provided, students interested only in such training are discouraged from applying for the program.

Applications will be accepted from persons who hold a bachelor's degree, are enrolled in or will complete work for the master of social work degree in 1976-77 or have previously earned this degree, or who are engaged in graduate work in social work. Applications are accepted for the fall term only and must be received by February 1, 1977, in order to be processed. Decisions will be announced by April 1, 1977.

For further information and application materials, write Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science, University of Michigan, School of Social

Work, 1060 Frieze Bldg., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109.

**Executive Program in Health Policy, Planning, and Regulation.** An Executive Program in Health Policy, Planning, and Regulation will be offered at the Harvard School of Public Health, in Boston, February 27 through March 25, 1977. It is primarily for health professionals who hold senior positions in such agencies as health systems agencies, State health departments, Medicaid programs, professional standards review organizations, and rate setting bodies, but others in senior positions in appropriate Federal agencies, State legislative committees, private companies, and health care institutions are encouraged to apply.

The program is designed to develop both analytical skills and substantive knowledge of the health care system through a sequence of sessions using a variety of instructional formats, including lectures and case discussions. Among the substantive and administrative problems that will be covered are quality of care regulation, certification of need procedures, mechanisms for controlling hospital cost and prices, manpower planning, enforcement and inspection techniques, legal constraints and initiatives, and the impact of community and political pressures on the regulatory process.

Applications are strongly encouraged from members of minorities and women. For further information write Administrative Director for Policy Programs, Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. 02115.

**Graduate studies in research, administration, and policy analysis.** The Division of Health Care Organization at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health has announced new opportunities to pursue individualized programs of graduate education in fields related to organization, administration, policy analysis, and research in personal health care services. Openings commencing in the 1977-78 academic year will accommodate a limited number of selected scholars interested in curriculums arranged at the master's, doctoral, or postdoctoral levels.

Applicants should have strong academic backgrounds in one of more of the behavioral, biological, clinical, mathematical, physical, political, or social sciences. Practical experience in the administration, analysis, evaluation, or provision of personal health care services is advantageous. Motivation and capability for advanced and independent scholarship is required.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Barbara H.

Starfield, MD, MPH, Division Chairman, Division of Health Care Organization, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, 615 North Wolfe St., Baltimore, Md. 21205.

**Master of Community health program.** Emory University is now accepting ap-

plications for this 1-year program that is designed to prepare persons with health experience for positions in community health administration, planning, evaluation, epidemiology, teaching, and research. The third class will enter in June 1977, and applications must be received by February 1, 1977. Flexible

scheduling allows many students to work full time while attending classes part-time. For further information, contact Constance C. Conrad, Director, Master of Community Health Program, 1518 Clifton Rd., Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. 30322.

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# publications

## FEDERAL

Health Manpower, A County and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 1973-75. Reported by the National Center for Health Statistics. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1234*. 1976; 74 pages.

Intermountain Medical Malpractice Seminar. Sponsored by the Health Systems Research Institute. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-3150*. 1976; 124 pages.

Living With End-Stage Renal Disease. A book for patients. *DHEW Publication No. 76-30001*. 1976; 45 pages; \$1.10 (Stock No. 017-026-00043-7.)

Quality Control for Scintillation Cameras. *DHEW Publication No. (FDA) 76-8046*. June 1976; 49 pages; \$1.15. (Stock No. 017-015-00105-9.)

Organ Doses in Diagnostic Radiology. By Marvin Rosenstein, Ph.D. *DHEW Publication (FDA) 76-8030*. May 1976; 122 pages; \$1.95. (Stock No. 017-015-00102-4.)

Handbook of Selected Organ Doses for Projections Common in Diagnostic Radiology. By Marvin Rosenstein, Ph.D. *DHEW Publication (FDA) 76-8031*. May 1976; 41 pages.

Statistical Reference Book of International Activities, Fiscal Year 1975 Funds. Prepared by International Cooperation and Geographic Studies Branch, Fogarty International Center, *DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 76-64*. 1976; 40 pages.

Physician Distribution and Rural Access to Medical Services. Prepared for Health Resources Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *Principal Investigator, Sinclair Coleman. R-1887-HEW*. April 1976;

98 pages. *Rand Corporation, 1700 Main St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90406*.

Physician Distribution and Rural Access to Medical Services. Executive Summary. Prepared for Health Resources Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *Principal Investigator, Sinclair Coleman. R-1887-1-HEW*. April 1976; 11 pages. *Rand Corporation, 1700 Main St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90406*.

Vital Statistics of the United States, 1972. Vol. I. Natality. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1100*. 1976; \$7.40 (Stock No. 017-022-004950-0).

Persons Injured and Disability Days by Detailed Type and Class of Accident, United States, 1971-1972. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1532, Series 10, No. 105*. January 1976; 54 pages; \$1.60.

Total Serum Cholesterol Values of Youths 12-17 Years, United States. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1638, Series 11, No. 156*. May 1976; 35 pages; 85 cents.

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Federal publications listed are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Orders should be accompanied by check or money order and should fully identify the publication. (Publications listed without prices may be obtained from the agency.)

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## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Treatment and Prevention of Dehydration in Diarrhoeal Diseases. A guide for use at the primary level. 1976; 32 pages; \$2.40; Geneva.

Manual on Urban Air Quality Management. Edited by M. J. Suess and S. R. Craxford. *WHO Regional Publications,*

*European Series No. 1*. 1976; 200 pages; \$14.40; Geneva.

World Health Statistics Annual, 1973-1976. Vol. I. Vital Statistics and Causes of Death. 1976; 863 pages; Geneva.

Statistical Indices of Family Health. Report of a WHO Study Group. WHO Technical Report Series No. 587. 1976; 92 pages; \$3.20; Geneva.

Planning and Evaluation of Public Dental Health Services. Report of a WHO Expert Committee. WHO Technical Report Series No. 589. 1976; 35 pages; \$2.40; Geneva.

Nuclear Medicine. Report of a Joint IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Use of Ionizing Radiation and Radioisotopes for Medical Purposes (Nuclear Medicine). Technical Report Series No. 591. 1976; 72 pages; \$2.80; Geneva.

Methodology of Nutritional Surveillance. Report of a Joint FAO/UNICEF/WHO Expert Committee. WHO Technical Report Series No. 593. 1976; 66 pages; \$2.80; Geneva.

Safety Evaluation of Chemicals in Food: Toxicological Data Profiles for Pesticides. 1. Carbamate and organophosphorus insecticides used in agriculture and public health. Progress in Standardization 3. By G. Vettorazzi and P. Miles-Vettorazzi. 1975; 61 pages; Geneva.

Selected Methods of Measuring Air Pollutants. Published under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. *WHO Offset Publication No. 24*. 1976; 112 pages; \$8; Geneva.

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WHO publications may be obtained from Q Corp., 49 Sheridan Ave., Albany N.Y. 12210.

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# 1976 INDEX

## KEY TO DATES AND PAGES

<i>Pages</i>	<i>Month of Issue</i>	<i>No.</i>
1-100 _____	January-February _____	1
101-196 _____	March-April _____	2
197-296 _____	May-June _____	3
297-392 _____	July-August _____	4
393-488 _____	September-October _____	5
489-588 _____	November-December _____	6

## KEY TO CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT INDEX

- (\*) Original signed article
- (CR) Conference report
- (PR) Publication review
- (SR) Short report

**THIS INDEX to PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS is divided into a subject index and an author index. The subject index carries one or more entries for each item published. In addition to the subject headings, categorical headings include ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONFERENCES; BIBLIOGRAPHIES; BICENTENNIAL REPRINTS; CONFERENCE REPORTS; EDUCATION NOTES; FILMS; and PUBLICATION REVIEWS.**

# SUBJECT INDEX

<b>ADMINISTRATORS</b>	
of neighborhood health centers, nontraditional graduate training for .....	*452
<b>ADOLESCENTS</b> <i>see</i> Youths	
<b>AFRICA, CENTRAL</b>	
and Wyoming, health manpower for rural primary care; problems and potentials in relating medical education to rural needs, as illustrated by recent attempts in .....	*159
<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>	
use of age computer, a simple device for improving age determination in censuses and surveys.....	*360
<b>AGED</b>	
Center for Studies of the Mental Health of the Aging established in National Institute of Mental Health (SR) .....	92
homemaker services, essential option for the elderly treatment of, audiovisual training package aimed at changing attitudes (SR) .....	*354 486
<b>ALCOHOL</b>	
beverage labels to include ingredients, FDA requirement (SR) .....	191
<b>AMBULATORY CARE</b>	
Michigan survey .....	*552
national survey, 1973 summary (PR) .....	293
treatment of currently hospitalized patients on outpatient basis by use of "talking" computers to report laboratory test results (SR) .....	92
<b>AMNIOCENTESIS</b>	
registry, implications of findings for public policy..	*116
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONFERENCES</b>	
American Public Health Association, call for papers for Medical Care Section of 1976 meeting .....	98
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, 27th annual session, papers invited .....	187
California symposium on "Women at Work," 1976, call for papers .....	98
conference on implications of developmental disabilities .....	98
conference on industrial waste .....	193
conference on management information, "State of the Art" .....	98
conference on skin health problems .....	193
International Conference on Medical Computing..	295
International Conference on Scabies and Pediculosis	192
International Symposium on Pediatric Cardiology.	193
International Conference on Photochemical Oxidant Pollution and Its Controls .....	392
National Conference on High Blood Pressure, papers sought .....	484
New York State Society of Physicians' Assistants..	574
Ninth International Biomaterials Symposium .....	567
Ninth International Conference on Health Education .....	193
Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics, 16th national meeting .....	185
Second International Conference on Transfer of Water Resources Knowledge, June 29-July 2, 1977 .....	566
Symposium on Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders During Pregnancy and in the Newborn Infant .....	98
36th Congress on Occupational Health .....	392
White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals .....	192
<b>ARMADILLOS</b>	
feral, Carville Hospital researchers find no sign of mycobacteriosis in 141 (SR) .....	481
<b>ASBESTOS</b>	
exposure, U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration extends time for keeping records (SR) .....	387
<b>AUDIOVISUALS</b>	
training package on relating to older people (SR) .	486
<b>BEHAVIOR</b>	
child abuse, life crisis as precursor to .....	*110
perceived and objective need for dental care; quantitative relationship .....	*508
smoking, influence of students on parents and teachers in consumer education project, Niagara County, N.Y. ....	*211
use of operant conditioning to assess babies' hearing (SR) .....	389
<b>BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE</b>	
in medical education, learning model .....	*281
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHIES</b>	
health manpower, 4th edition, updated (PR) ....	390
National Library of Medicine .....	191, 572
<b>BICENTENNIAL REPRINTS</b>	
denti di Chiaie (Chiaie teeth) (Nov. 1, 1901) ...	284
"Dr." Franklin (reprinted from <i>The Health Officer</i> , February 1939) .....	178
droplet infection explained in pictures, poster on spread of infection (Nov. 15, 1918) .....	382
epidemic influenza and the United States Public Health Service (Oct. 25, 1918) .....	378
influenza studies. I. On certain general statistical aspects of the 1918 epidemic in American cities (Aug. 8, 1919) .....	383
malaria among drug addicts in New York City (Mar. 30, 1934) .....	477
oral poliovirus vaccine (October 1960) .....	88
public health administration and the citizen (June 12, 1914) .....	563

sure cures for influenza (Nov. 8, 1918) . . . . .	380	Reye's syndrome made a reportable disease in New York (SR) . . . . .	292
<b>BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS</b>		study of child health station referrals to treatment facilities to determine continuity in health services . . . . .	*138
and drugs, FDA to be responsible for assuring quality (SR) . . . . .	384	survey of immunization levels of children in licensed day-care facilities, North Carolina; sample design 200 years of progress in America (PR) . . . . .	*556 289
<b>BIRTH CONTROL</b> <i>see</i> Contraception		<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	
<b>BIRTH DEFECTS</b>		of mentally disabled (PR) . . . . .	567
associated with use of tranquilizers in first trimester; physicians warned (SR) . . . . .	565	<b>CLINICS</b> <i>see</i> Health Facilities	
<b>BLINDNESS</b>		<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
in diabetic patients, use of light beams and vitrectomy to reduce risk (SR) . . . . .	388	biomedical, construction of Lister Hill National Center (SR) . . . . .	390
<b>BLOOD PRESSURE</b>		Cancerline, computer system provides easier access to cancer data, NIH, NLM (SR) . . . . .	391
film on measuring, available on free loan (SR) . . .	567	satellite, Veterans Administration to expand experiments for medical consultation (SR) . . . . .	294
<b>BLOOD PRODUCTS</b>		<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH</b>	
actions to assure uniform quality, FDA (SR) . . . .	189	mental health centers and PSROs geographic relationship (SR) . . . . .	94
<b>CANCER</b>		partners in teaching, a medical school and an elementary school, Washington, D.C. (SR) . . . . .	268
control, experiment with Can-Dial, telephone information system . . . . .	*218	training of planning personnel for local and State agencies; toward an invisible college . . . . .	*51
data, Cancerline computer, easier access, NIH, NLM (SR) . . . . .	391	<b>COMPUTERS</b>	
patients, data available on 9,080 from New York and Pennsylvania hospitals for 1970-73 (SR) . .	571	money-saving system used by Harvard Community Health Plan (SR) . . . . .	486
prostatic, detected by blood test among men at high risk (SR) . . . . .	568	"talking" used to report laboratory test results in treatment of currently hospitalized patients on outpatient basis (SR) . . . . .	92
tests for cervical, awareness and use in a southern Appalachian community . . . . .	*236	<b>CONFERENCE REPORTS</b>	
workers in metal-related occupations have increased risk (SR) -----	569	ways to improve care in rural areas . . . . .	387
<b>CARBON MONOXIDE</b> <i>see</i> Poisoning		ways to save high-risk patients discussed by physicians and planners . . . . .	187
<b>CARDIAC SURGERY</b>		<b>CONSUMERS</b>	
strategy for determining local area need for; Hartford (Conn.) area hospitals . . . . .	*67	movement and participation in health care and representation on regulatory boards for the health profession . . . . .	*406
<b>CHILD ABUSE</b>		of new and traditional sources of care, evaluation of health care services by recently pregnant women; use of a model in Meharry Medical College study . . . . .	*412
life crisis as a precursor to . . . . .	*110	participation in health agency affairs and patients' rights; approaches of nine Federal health agencies . . . . .	*403
<b>CHILD HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>		<b>CONTRACEPTION</b>	
<i>see also</i> Child Abuse; Infants; Maternal Health		for males, without prescription; a reevaluation of the condom and coitus interruptus . . . . .	*437
amniocentesis registry, implications of findings for public policy . . . . .	*116	frequency of harmful side effects of IUDs studied at George Washington University, under contract	
babies' hearing assessed by new behavioral technique, operant conditioning (SR) . . . . .	389		
elementary school children taught to be family and community health educators, project of Washington, D.C., medical school (SR) . . . . .	286		
failure to vaccinate children against measles during second year of life; analysis of immunization practices in two Tennessee county health departments . . . . .	*133		
growth charts for American youngsters released by National Center for Health Statistics (PR) . . . .	571		

by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (SR) .....	97	tooth decay reduced by combined preventive measures (SR) .....	568
services for adolescent females, the gynecologist's dilemma .....	*166	<b>DENTISTS</b>	
<b>CONTRACTS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS</b>		utilization in mass casualty situations (SR) .....	188
contract for national study of medical care expenditures, Health Resources Administration (SR) ..	565	<b>DIABETIC RETINOPATHY</b>	
Federal health services grants, 1965-75 .....	*493	studies of use of light beams and vitrectomy to reduce risk of blindness for some diabetic patients (SR) .....	388
5-year grant for study of early diagnosis of cerebral palsy in infancy, DHEW (SR) .....	567	<b>DIET</b> <i>see</i> Nutrition	
George Washington University awarded \$300,000 contract by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study side effects of IUDs (SR) .....	97	<b>DISABLED</b> <i>see</i> Handicapped	
grants for Commission on Public-General Hospitals established by Hospital Research and Educational Trust (SR) .....	286	<b>DRUG ABUSE</b>	
grants to five university centers to study quality, delivery, and costs of health services (SR) .....	294	cross-country reporting system (September-October inside cover)	
HEW grants to foster better health care in rural areas (SR) .....	386	self-awareness, filmed series (SR) .....	186
index to 1975 PHS grants and contracts published (PR) .....	484	warning network (DAWN), a statistical perspective .....	*395
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences awards contract to investigate kepone hazards (SR) .....	185	<b>DRUG ADDICTS</b>	
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences grant to establish Environmental Health Sciences Center for study of trace metal pollution, University of Rochester, N.Y. (SR) .....	94	malaria among, New York City (Bicentennial reprint, Mar. 30, 1934) .....	477
over \$29 million awarded to 52 recipients under Emergency Medical Services Act (SR) .....	484	<b>DRUGS</b>	
twelve fellowships available for health projects, Hospital Research and Educational Trust (SR) ..	486	and biologicals, FDA to be responsible for assuring quality (SR) .....	384
Veterans Administration grants of \$40 million for medical school assistance and health manpower training (SR) .....	92	manual for conducting utilization review in skilled nursing facilities (PR) .....	387
WHO fellowships for U.S. health workers, 1977 (SR) .....	385	tranquilizers, physicians warned against prescribing during first 3 months of pregnancy (SR) .....	565
<b>CRUISE SHIPS</b>		<b>ECONOMICS, HEALTH</b>	
occurrence of gastroenteritis aboard .....	*433	achievements and problems of Medicaid .....	*309
<b>DENMARK</b>		cost-effectiveness computer system used by Harvard Community Health Plan (SR) .....	188
experience in mass screening for tuberculosis; principles and effects .....	*146	economic and financial considerations of health and medical care among three-generational families .	*532
<b>DENTAL CARE</b>		functional activity budgeting for rational staffing of hospital nursing services .....	*118
delivery, a method for examining personnel utilization in; application in 14 practices .....	*373	homemaker services, essential option for the elderly	*354
perceived and objective need for; quantitative relationship .....	*508	how health care facilities can trim energy needs and costs, film (SR) .....	293
use of community residents as interviewers in a dental health care research project .....	*77	impact of viral hepatitis in the United States, 1970	*349
<b>DENTAL DISEASE</b>		Medicaid, a decade after inception .....	*303
denti di Chiaie (Chiaie teeth), Bicentennial reprint, Nov. 1, 1901 .....	284	Medicare, medical practice, and the medical profession .....	*317
		national study of medical care expenditures, contract awarded by Health Resources Administration (SR) .....	565
		potential for reducing health care costs by public and patient education; summary of selected studies	*223
		regulatory and review functions of agencies created by the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 .....	*24
		rising medical care costs, AMA commission to attack (SR) .....	384
		ten-year perspective on Medicare .....	*299

## EDUCATION NOTES

biohazard and injury control in the biomedical laboratory .....	294
Devereaux Foundation fellowships and internships .	99
doctoral study in social work and social science ...	574
executive development program on management and community aspects of accountability .....	98
Executive Program in Health Policy, Planning, and Regulation .....	574
family planning training institute .....	573
graduate summer session in epidemiology, University of Minnesota .....	192
graduate studies in research, administration, and policy analysis .....	574
graduate summer session on statistics in the health sciences .....	193
health executives development program .....	192
Institutes for Physicians and Nurses in Perinatology	294
master of community health program .....	575
research fellowships to Sweden and Switzerland ...	574
statistical methods, Georgia Institute of Technology	294
symposium on biofeedback, meditation, and self-regulatory therapies .....	573

## EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL

baccalaureate training in health planning and administration; progress report .....	*458
Executive Graduate Program in Health Care Financial Management (SR) .....	184
film, "X-ray Examination, A Guide to Good Practice" (SR) .....	190
interprofessional conferences as an aid to health care learning model for behavioral science in medical education .....	*164
lectures taped at new television studio of National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (SR) .....	*281
new device, "Tutorendoscope," teaches proctoscopy, lesion diagnosis (SR) .....	95
nontraditional graduate training for administrators of neighborhood health centers .....	91
of neighborhood health centers .....	*452

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

categorization of hospitals by their capability to meet emergencies being studied (SR) .....	95
over \$29 million awarded to 52 recipients under Emergency Medical Services Act (SR) .....	484
utilization of dentists in mass casualty situations (SR) .....	188
ways to improve care in rural areas (CR) .....	387
ways to save high-risk patients discussed by physicians and planners (CR) .....	187

ENERGY NEEDS *see* Films; Publication Reviews

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences grant to University of Rochester (N.Y.) to estab-	
---	--

lish Environmental Health Sciences Center for study of trace metal pollution .....	94
--	----

## EPIDEMIOLOGY

gastroenteritis on cruise ships, a recurring problem .	*433
review of documents and interviews with surviving principals of a 1940 outbreak of staphylococcal gastroenteritis; Oswego County (N.Y.) revisited	*168

## ETHNIC GROUPS

black males in Michigan, decrease in life expectancy	*141
Indians, American, a method of allocating resources for services by the Indian Health Service .....	*256
Indians, Navajo, cases of bacterial meningitis among, 1968-73 .....	*464

## EVALUATION

of community trial of BCG vaccination; 20-year followup, tuberculosis studies in Muscogee County, Ga. ....	*276
--	------

## FAMILY HEALTH

health and medical care among three-generational families, economic and financial considerations .	*538
--	------

## FAMILY PLANNING

development of the national inventory of services of, United States (PR) .....	391
inventory of services, institutional characteristics, United States (PR) .....	391

## FILMS

"Energy Dollars and Sense" .....	293
"Energy Strategies for Health Care Institutions" ..	191
"Measuring Blood Pressure, An Introduction for Paramedical Personnel," available on free loan..	567
on drug abuse, self-awareness .....	186
"X-Ray Examination: A Guide to Good Practice" ..	190

FOOD POISONING *see* Gastroenteritis

## FOOD PROTECTION

international journal begins publication (PR) ...	481
---	-----

## FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

differential performance on subtests of the educational council examination for .....	*86
---	-----

## GASTROENTERITIS

on a cruise ship, a recurring problem .....	*433
staphylococcal gastroenteritis outbreak, 1940, review of documents and interviews with surviving principals; Oswego County (N.Y.) revisited .....	*168

## GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

national health insurance and its implications for U.S. consumers .....	*343
---	------

## GHANA

rural health examination survey; nonresponse factors	*368
--	------

## GROUP PRACTICE

Greater Marshfield Community Health Plan, composition of subscribers .....	*504
--	------

<b>GROWTH</b>	
new charts for American youngsters released by National Center for Health Statistics (SR) . . . . .	571
<b>GYNECOLOGISTS</b> <i>see</i> Physicians	
<b>HANDICAPPED</b>	
specialized living centers for developmentally disabled (SR) . . . . .	97
White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, announcement . . . . .	192
<b>HEALTH AGENCIES</b>	
approaches of nine to patients' rights and consumer participation, survey . . . . .	*403
provision of home services in New Hampshire; study of characteristics of eight agencies and their patients . . . . .	*545
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	
consumer action in quality assurance . . . . .	*406
effects of Medicare and Medicaid on access to and quality of . . . . .	*322
international study of (PR) . . . . .	570
interprofessional conferences as an aid to . . . . .	*164
layperson as primary practitioner . . . . .	*206
potential contribution of consumers to an integrated health care system . . . . .	*72
potential for reducing costs by public and patient education; summary of selected studies . . . . .	*223
research, new and traditional sources of care evaluated by recently pregnant women; Meharry Medical College study . . . . .	*412
twelve fellowships available for projects on (SR) . . . . .	486
<b>HEALTH CAREERS</b>	
pamphlet for junior high school students (PR) . . . . .	190
Spanish-English advertising campaign to promote (PR) . . . . .	96
<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	
<i>see also</i> Patient Education	
a method of allocating resources for services by the Indian Health Service . . . . .	*256
and cancer control, experiment with Can-Dial, telephone information system . . . . .	*218
around the world (pictorial) . . . . .	254
awareness and use of cervical cancer tests in a southern Appalachian community . . . . .	*236
Delaware newspaper, "Health Beat," an aid to (SR) . . . . .	93
drug abuse, self-awareness filmed series (SR) . . . . .	186
evaluation of a VD hotline, Long Branch, N.J. . . . .	*231
Federal overview . . . . .	*199
for Job Corps enrollees . . . . .	*243
guidelines for making it work . . . . .	*249
health fairs, guidelines for conducting . . . . .	*261
information sought nationwide on projects for use by State and areawide health planning agencies (SR) . . . . .	482
instrument of prevention (May-June inside cover)	
National High Blood Pressure Education Program results (SR) . . . . .	275
need for self-care programs . . . . .	*206
programs offered to employees of Bell Laboratory, Morristown, N.J. (SR) . . . . .	273
public and patient, potential for reducing health care costs; summary of selected studies . . . . .	*223
role of community pharmacists . . . . .	*226
teaching elementary school children to be family and community health educators, project of Washington, D.C., medical school (SR) . . . . .	268
teaching-learning mechanisms in school program on cigarette smoking and health . . . . .	*211
<b>HEALTH FACILITIES</b>	
clinic of a rural medical care delivery system, New Mexico; an analysis of processing of patients . . . . .	*471
community mental health centers and PSROs, geographic relationship (SR) . . . . .	94
critical experiences in organizing and administering the Massachusetts certification of need program . . . . .	*29
effects of energy problems on, film (SR) . . . . .	191
hospitals required to post multi-lingual "free care" notices advising low-income patients of eligibility for "uncompensated" services (SR) . . . . .	97
neighborhood health center as a mental health diagnostic service . . . . .	*446
neighborhood health centers, nontraditional graduate training for administrators . . . . .	*452
use of solar energy for health care institutions (PR) . . . . .	185
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	
<i>see also</i> Economics, Health	
in the Medicare years . . . . .	*336
national health insurance in the Federal Republic of Germany and its implications for U.S. consumers . . . . .	*343
<b>HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
<i>see also</i> Group Practice	
automated cost-effective, Harvard Community Health Plan (SR) . . . . .	188
subscriber service guide issued by Blue Cross (PR) . . . . .	390
why some develop slowly . . . . .	*496
<b>HEALTH OCCUPATIONS</b>	
decennial census data on (PR) . . . . .	288
<b>HEALTH PLANNING</b>	
and administration, baccalaureate training; progress report . . . . .	*458
critical experiences in organizing and administering the Massachusetts certification of need program . . . . .	*29

designating health service areas under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 .....	*9	HOSPITAL CORPSMEN	
implementing the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 .....	*3	schooling, occupational motivation, and personality as related to success in paramedical training ...	*533
monograph on health goals and standards (PR) ..	572	HOSPITALS	
National Health Planning and Resources Development Act; a progress report (January-February inside cover)		cardiovascular surgical services in Hartford (Conn.) area, strategy for determining local area need ..	*67
National Health Planning Information Center established under the Health Resources Administration .....	*19	categorization of hospitals by their capability to meet emergencies being studied (SR) .....	95
potential contribution of consumers to an integrated health care system .....	*72	Commission on Public-General Hospitals established (SR) .....	286
regulatory and review functions of agencies created by the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 .....	*24	federally aided, required to post multi-lingual "free care" notices; advising low-income patients of eligibility for "uncompensated services" (SR) ..	97
strategy for determining local area need for cardiovascular surgical services, Hartford (Conn.) area hospitals .....	*67	in Greenville, S.C., patient education coordinators positions created (SR) .....	274
the health service agency (HSA) and the professional standards review organization (PSRO): toward a linkage .....	*46	Lexington (Ky.) Veterans Administration Hospital, study of effectiveness of nurses' referrals of discharged patients to community nursing agencies. ..	*122
training board members for health planning agencies; review of the literature .....	*56	physician's role in patient education (SR) .....	271
training of planning personnel for local and State agencies; toward an invisible college .....	*51	rational staffing of nursing services by functional activity budgeting .....	*118
validity of repeating patient origin studies for rural hospitals .....	*62	rural, validity of repeating patient origin studies for	*62
HEALTH SERVICE AGENCIES		HOSPITALS, MENTAL	
see Health Planning		State and county, United States, 1973-74 (PR) ..	571
HEALTH SERVICES		HYPERTENSION	
see also Health Planning		results of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program (SR) .....	275
five university centers receive grants to improve quality, delivery, and costs of (SR) .....	294	IMMUNIZATION	
for youth at a beach resort .....	*541	levels of children in North Carolina day-care facilities; sample design for a survey .....	*556
receipt by patients referred to other sources; design and test of a system for tracking referrals, North Carolina .....	*521	INDIANS, AMERICAN see Ethnic Groups	
HEARING		INDUSTRIAL HEALTH	
babies', assessed by new behavioral technique, operant conditioning (SR) .....	389	health education programs for employees of Bell Laboratories, Morristown, N.J. (SR) .....	273
HEART DISEASE		INFANTS	
first attacks, 12,500 volunteers enrolled in study to evaluate ways to prevent (SR) .....	286	see also Child Abuse; Child Health and Welfare; Maternal Health	
HEPATITIS		early diagnosis of cerebral palsy to be studied (SR)	567
viral, economic impact in the United States; mortality and morbidity, 1970 .....	*349	mortality (PR) .....	424
HOME CARE		mortality, geographic variations, 1961-65, 1969-73. special care nursery, Perinatal Center, located at the NIH Clinical Center (SR) .....	*423
homemaker services, essential option for the elderly in New Hampshire; study of eight home health agencies .....	*354	INFLUENZA	
	*545	pandemic; Bicentennial reprints (1918 and 1919) ..	378
		swine, vaccination campaign (July-August inside cover)	
		INFORMATION RETRIEVAL	
		catalog of micro-data tapes available from National Center for Health Statistics (PR) .....	480
		INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
		international network set up for exchange of bio-	



<b>MILK</b>			
impaired ability to digest, new breath test devised (SR) .....	572		
<b>MONGOOSE</b>			
and rodents, leptospirosis on the Island of Oahu, prevalence .....	*171		
<b>MORBIDITY</b> <i>see</i> Vital Statistics			
<b>MORTALITY</b> <i>see</i> Vital Statistics			
<b>NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE</b>			
bibliographies available on specific biomedical subjects (SR) .....	191, 572		
Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (SR) .....	390		
MEDLARS, international cooperation (SR) .....	569		
<b>NOMENCLATURE</b>			
of physical quantities and units of measurement, international recommendations (PR) .....	189		
<b>NURSE ASSOCIATES</b>			
training programs surveyed; program characteristics and trends .....	*127		
<b>NURSING SERVICES</b>			
hospital, rational staffing by functional activity budgeting .....	*118		
study of effectiveness of nursing referrals of discharged patients from Lexington (Ky.) Veterans Administration Hospital to community nursing agencies .....	*122		
<b>NUTRITION</b>			
digestion of milk, new breath test devised for impaired ability (SR) .....	572		
<b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH</b>			
asbestos exposure, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, extends time for keeping records (SR) .....	387		
recommended standard for exposure to xylene, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (PR) .....	189		
standards for exposure to sodium hydroxide and zinc oxide, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (PR) .....	291		
workers in metal-related occupations have increased risk of cancer (SR) .....	569		
<b>PATIENT EDUCATION</b>			
coordinators in Greenville, S.C., hospitals (SR) ..	274		
role of the physician in a program for hospital patients (SR) .....	271		
<b>PATIENT RIGHTS</b>			
and consumer participation, survey of approaches of nine Federal health agencies .....	*403		
<b>PHARMACISTS</b>			
expanded roles in the community—which direction?		*226	
<b>PHYSICIANS</b>			
gynecologist's dilemma, the adolescent's need for contraceptive services .....		*166	
learning model for behavioral science in medical education .....		*281	
private, knowledge of and attitudes toward sexual assault .....		*103	
role in a hospital's patient education program (SR)		271	
<b>POISONING</b>			
carbon monoxide, accidental; Colorado and Wyoming, 1971-73 .....		*560	
<b>PREVENTIVE MEDICINE</b> <i>see</i> Medicine, Preventive			
<b>PRISON HEALTH</b>			
AMA organizes projects to improve health care in jails of six States (SR) .....		184	
<b>PROCTOSCOPY</b>			
new device, "Tutorendoscope," to aid teaching of (SR) .....		91	
<b>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
<i>see also</i> Health Planning			
and community mental health centers, geographic relationship (SR) .....		94	
<b>PUBLICATION REVIEWS</b>			
"A Guide to International Recommendations on Names and Symbols for Quantities and on Units of Measurement" .....		189	
" <i>Alcohol Health and Research World</i> " .....		570	
"An Inventory of Family Planning Services Sites: Institutional Characteristics, United States, 1974"		391	
"Baselines for Setting Health Goals and Standards"		572	
"Child Health in America" .....		289	
<i>Commitment</i> , new quarterly journal published by Health Resources Administration .....		386	
"Criteria for a Recommended Standard for Occupational Exposure to Sodium Hydroxide" .....		291	
"Criteria for a Recommended Standard for Occupational Exposure to Zinc Oxide" .....		291	
"Decennial Census Data for Selected Health Occupations: United States, 1970" .....		288	
"Development of the National Inventory of Family Planning Services, United States" .....		391	
"Differentials in Health Characteristics by Marital Status, United States, 1971-1972" .....		484	
"Drug Utilization Review in Skilled Nursing Facilities—A Manual System for Performing Sample Studies of Drug Utilization" .....		387	

<b>"Eye Examination Findings Among Youths Aged 12-17 Years, United States"</b> . . . . .		391
<b>"Have You Considered a Health Career?"</b> . . . . .		190
<b>"Health Care: An International Study"</b> . . . . .		570
<b>"Health in America, 1776-1976"</b> . . . . .		568
<b>"Health Manpower: An Annotated Bibliography," 4th edition</b> . . . . .		390
<b>"HMO Subscriber Service: Meeting Management and Regulatory Requirements"</b> . . . . .		390
<b>"Infant Mortality" (No. 2) and "Introduction" (No. 1) in the Statistical Notes for Health Planners Series</b> . . . . .		424
<b>"Introducing WHO"</b> . . . . .		386
<i>Journal of Food Protection</i> , international monthly, begins publication January 1977 . . . . .		481
<b>"National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1973 Summary"</b> . . . . .		293
<b>"Paper Victories and Hard Realities: The Implementation of the Legal and Constitutional Rights of the Mentally Disabled"</b> . . . . .		567
<b>"Recommended Standard for Occupational Exposure to Xylene"</b> . . . . .		189
<b>"Research Grants Index, Fiscal Year 1975"</b> . . . . .		484
<b>"Solar Energy for Health Care Institutions"</b> . . . . .		185
<b>"Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater"</b> . . . . .		389
<b>"Standardized Micro-Data Transcripts"</b> . . . . .		480
<b>"State and County Mental Hospitals, United States, 1973-74"</b> . . . . .		571
<b>"200 Ways to Put Your Talent to Work in the Health Field," aimed at Hispanics</b> . . . . .		96
<b>"Vision Research Program Planning"</b> . . . . .		91
<b>RAPE</b> <i>see</i> Sexual Assault		
<b>REFERRALS</b>		
and screening outcomes of school-based health services, Harlem Hospital Center program . . . . .		*514
from child health stations to treatment facilities, study to determine continuity in health services . . . . .		*138
of patients discharged from Lexington (Ky.) Veterans Administration Hospital to community nursing agencies, study of effectiveness . . . . .		*122
system for tracking referred patients evaluated by North Carolina's State-supported developmental evaluation centers . . . . .		*521
<b>RESEARCH</b>		
contract awarded by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to investigate kepone hazards (SR) . . . . .		185
dental health care project, use of community residents as interviewers . . . . .		*77
diabetic retinopathy, study of use of light beams and vitrectomy to reduce risk of blindness (SR) . . . . .		388
malaria, first continuous culture of parasite in test tube (SR) . . . . .		480

validity of repeating patient origin studies for rural hospitals . . . . .	*62
vision, report of National Eye Institute advisory council on public and private support (PR) . . . . .	91
<b>REYE'S SYNDROME</b>	
declared a reportable disease, New York (SR) . . . . .	292
<b>RODENTS</b>	
and mongoose leptospirosis on the Island of Oahu, prevalence . . . . .	*171
<b>RURAL HEALTH</b>	
analysis of processing patients in a rural medical care delivery system, New Mexico . . . . .	*471
better emergency care for rural Americans, recommendations (CR) . . . . .	387
community-based medical practices initiated in 25 rural areas by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (SR) . . . . .	187
examination survey in Ghana, nonresponse factors. HEW grants to foster better care in rural areas (SR) . . . . .	*368
health manpower for primary care; problems and potentials in relating medical education to rural needs, as illustrated in attempts in Wyoming and Central Africa . . . . .	*159
<b>SCHOOL HEALTH</b>	
casefinding, followup, and health education program in elementary schools; Harlem Hospital Center program . . . . .	*514
<b>SCREENING PROGRAMS</b>	
principles and effects of mass screening for tuberculosis, Danish experience . . . . .	*146
<b>SEXUAL ASSAULT</b>	
National Center for the Prevention and Control of Rape (SR) . . . . .	385
survey of incidence of and physicians' attitudes toward . . . . .	*103
<b>SICKLE CELL DISEASE</b>	
awareness among high school students, Kingston, Jamaica . . . . .	*265
<b>SKIN DISEASES</b>	
schistosome dermatitis in Pennsylvania . . . . .	*469
<b>SMOKING</b>	
behavior, teaching-learning mechanisms in school program on cigarette smoking and health . . . . .	*211
<b>SNAILS</b>	
role in a schistosome dermatitis occurrence in Pennsylvania . . . . .	*469
<b>SPECTROSCOPY</b>	
electron spin resonance, new resource at Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, helps scientists to probe living matter (SR) . . . . .	566

<b>SPORTS MEDICINE</b>			
future directions (SR) . . . . .		186	
<b>SURVEYS</b>			
Ghana, rural health examination; nonresponse factors . . . . .	*368		
of nurse associate training programs . . . . .	*127		
<b>TOXOPLASMOSIS</b>			
prevalence of <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> antibodies among veterinary college staff and students, Iowa State University . . . . .		*526	
<b>TRACE METALS</b>			
pollution, to be studied at University of Rochester (N.Y.) under 5-year grant from National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (SR) . . . . .		94	
<b>TRAINING</b>			
audiovisuals on relating to older people (SR) . . . . .		486	
nontraditional graduate, for administrators of neighborhood health centers . . . . .	*452		
of board members for health planning agencies; review of the literature . . . . .	*56		
paramedical; schooling, occupational motivation, and personality related to successful . . . . .	*533		
performance-oriented new instructional system (CEWT) for wastewater plant operators and laboratory technicians (SR) . . . . .		96	
planning personnel for local and State health agencies; toward an invisible college . . . . .	*51		
programs for nurse associates surveyed . . . . .	*127		
<b>TUBERCULOSIS</b>			
principles and effects of mass screening, Danish experience . . . . .	*146		
studies in Muscogee County, Ga.; 20-year evaluation of a community trial of BCG vaccination . . . . .	*276		
<b>UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</b>			
Sanitary Epidemiological (SANEPID) Service; network of public health centers for control of potentially preventable diseases . . . . .	*154		
<b>VACCINATIONS</b>			
BCG, 20-year evaluation of a community trial; tuberculosis studies in Muscogee County, Ga. . . . .	*276		
campaign for swine influenza (July-August inside cover)			
measles, failure to vaccinate children during second year of life; an analysis of immunization practices in two Tennessee county health departments . . . . .	*133		
<b>VENEREAL DISEASE</b>			
VD Hotline, evaluation; Long Branch, N.J. . . . .	*231		
<b>VETERINARIANS</b>			
college staff and students, prevalence of <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> antibodies among; Iowa State University . . . . .			*526
<b>VETERINARY MEDICINE</b>			
new journal, <i>Historia Medicinae Veterinariae</i> , published in Copenhagen, Denmark (SR) . . . . .			293
<b>VISION</b>			
eye examination and vision tests among youths, findings (PR) . . . . .			391
research, report of National Eye Institute advisory council on public and private support (PR) . . . . .			91
<b>VITAL STATISTICS</b>			
infant mortality (PR) . . . . .			424
infant mortality, geographic variation, 1961-65, 1969-73 . . . . .			*423
life expectancy of black males on decrease in Michigan . . . . .			*141
morbidity and mortality data on viral hepatitis, 1970, economic impact in the United States . . . . .			*349
morbidity data on 9,080 cancer patients from New York and Pennsylvania hospitals, 1970-73 (SR) . . . . .			571
use of age computer, a simple device for improving age determination in censuses and surveys, Afghanistan . . . . .			*360
<b>WATER POLLUTION</b>			
criteria for establishing wastewater training (CEWT), method for training plant operators and laboratory technicians (SR) . . . . .			96
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>			
methods for examination of water and wastewater (PR) . . . . .			389
<b>WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION</b>			
fellowships available to U.S. health workers, 1977 (SR) . . . . .			385
"Introducing WHO" (PR) . . . . .			386
recommendations on names and symbols for quantities and on units of measurement (PR) . . . . .			189
<b>XYLENE</b>			
standard for occupational exposure recommended by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (PR) . . . . .			189
<b>YOUTHS</b>			
adolescent females' need for contraceptive services, the gynecologist's dilemma . . . . .			*166
eye examinations and visual tests, findings (PR) . . . . .			391
high school students' awareness of sickle cell disease, Kingston, Jamaica . . . . .			*265
Job Corps enrollees' health education program . . . . .			*243
receive health services at beach resort . . . . .			*541

# AUTHOR INDEX

\*Original article    \*\*Bicentennial reprint

- Alexander, Nancy J . . . \*437  
 Altschuler, Sherry L . . . \*164  
 Asnes, Russell S . \*138, \*226
- Barid, Steven J . . . . . \*133  
 Bauer, Ruth B . . . . . 273  
 Bauman, Karl E . . . . . \*521  
 Behney, Clyde J . . . . . \*493  
 Belcher, D. W . . . . . \*368  
 Bellin, Seymour S . . . . . \*446  
 Bernheimer, Liz . . . . . 271  
 Betts, William A . . . . . \*256  
 Bicknell, William J . . . . . \*29  
 Birch, Janet Scott . . . . . \*412  
 Bleich, Donald . . . . . \*373  
 Booth, Richard F . . . . . \*533  
 Brandt, Ursula C . . . . . \*86  
 Brinzey, Carolyn C . . . . . \*67  
 Brooks, Richard S . . . . . 93  
 Brown, Andrew J . . . . . \*236  
 Brown, Larry E . . . . . \*552  
 Bryan, John A . . . . . \*349  
 Bryant, Nancy H . . \*231, 273  
 Bulman, John S . . . . . \*508  
 Burney, Leroy E . . . . . \*\*88
- Carroll, David F . . . . . \*469  
 Chamberlain, Naomi H . . 268  
 Chin, James . . . . . \*433  
 Christensen, Dale B . . . \*406  
 Colton, Theodore . . . . . \*508  
 Combs, Phyllis A . . . . . \*122  
 Comstock, George W . . \*276  
 Cooke, Thomas M . . . . . 485  
 Cooper, Theodore  
   (January–February, May–  
   June inside cover)  
     \*116, \*491
- Coulehan, John L . . . . . \*464  
 Cornell, Richard G . . . . \*552  
 Coulter, Martie . . . . . \*521
- Dallas, James Lee . . . . . \*46  
 Darrow, Marilyn M . . . \*146  
 Davis, Karen . . . . . \*309  
 Dennis, Ruth . . . . . \*141  
 Desai, P . . . . . \*265  
 Dickinson, Karen (R.)  
     \*138, \*226
- Dobmeyer, Thomas W . \*127  
 Donabedian, Avedis . . . \*322  
 Duncan, David F . . . . . \*110
- Eager, J. M . . . . . \*\*284  
 Endicott, Kenneth M.  
   (March–April, November–  
   December inside covers)
- Farrell, Philip . . . . . 287  
 Feldman, Jacob J . . . . . \*423  
 Fiedler, Dolores E . . . . \*166  
 Fielding, Jonathan E . . . \*243  
 Ford, Patricia A . . . . . \*541  
 Fried, Bernard . . . . . \*469  
 Frazier, P. Jean . . . . . \*77  
 Free, Michael J . . . . . \*437  
 Frist, William . . . . . \*231  
 Fujinaka, Ivan T . . . . . \*171
- Garramone, Marie A . . . \*496  
 Giddon, Donald B . . . . . \*508  
 Glasgow, John M . . . . . \*67  
 Glass, Roger I . . . . . \*154  
 Goldsmith, Harold F . . . 94  
 Gorwitz, Kurt . . . . . \*141  
 Gosfield, Alice G . . . . . \*403  
 Graham, Saxon . . . . . \*218  
 Grebin, Burton . . . . . \*226  
 Greer, Ann Lennarson . . \*56  
 Gross, Michael . . . . . \*168  
 Grover, Paul L., Jr . . . \*249  
 Guyer, Bernard . . . . . \*133
- Hale, Frank A . . . . . \*545  
 Harten, Carol J . . . . . \*51  
 Helpert, Milton . . . . . \*\*477  
 Hess, Arthur E . . . . . \*299  
 Higa, Harry H . . . . . \*171  
 Horwitz, Ole . . . . . \*146  
 Hudgins, Michael P . . . \*433  
 Hutcheson, Robert H., Jr \*133
- Isbister, James D.  
   (September–October  
   inside cover)  
     \*138, \*226, \*514
- Jacobs, Arthur R . . . . . \*545  
 Jenny, Joanna . . . . . \*77  
 Johnson, Katherine A . . \*24  
 Johnson, Paul W. C . . . \*556  
 Jones, Gary E . . . . . \*469  
 Joseph, Stephen C . . . . \*159  
 Justice, Blair . . . . . \*110
- Kempner, Mark A . . . . . \*51  
 Kirchheimer, F . . . . . 481  
 Kleinman, Joel C . . \*86, \*423
- Larbi, E. B . . . . . \*368  
 LeaMond, Nancy A . . . \*303  
 Lemley, Diana K . . . . . \*464  
 Levin, Lowell S . . . . . \*206  
 Litman, Theodor J . . . . \*538
- Livesay, Verna T . . . . . \*276  
 Locke, Ben Z . . . . . \*446  
 Lockwood, Laurie A . . . \*127  
 Loewenstein, Regina  
     \*226, \*514
- Lohrenz, Francis N . . . . \*504  
 Lowin, Aaron . . . . . \*127
- McGuire, L. S . . . . . \*103  
 McLachlan, Gordon . . . \*332  
 McNally, Michael S . . . \*533  
 McNerney, Walter J . . . \*336  
 MacLeod, Gordon K . . . \*343  
 Malberg, J. W . . . . . \*560  
 Marcus, Marvin . . . . . \*373  
 Maturi, Vincent F . . . 92, 188  
 May Lan, Shu-Ping . . . \*514  
 Meade, James M . . . . . \*62  
 Michaels, Richard H . . . \*464  
 Miike, Lawrence H . . . . 411  
 Miller, Jean . . . . . \*249  
 Mirand, Edwin A . . . . . \*218  
 Mitchell, John H . . . . . \*504  
 Moore, Florence M . . . . \*354  
 Moran, Merle K . . . . . 274  
 Morrison, Florence R . . \*433  
 Morrone, Frank . . . . . \*19  
 Mosier, Marilyn . . . . . \*508  
 Mugge, Robert H . . . . . \*423
- Nelson, Bardin, Jr . . . . . \*72  
 Nelson, Scott . . . . . \*243  
 New, Mary . . . . . \*446  
 North, Charles Q., Jr . . \*464  
 Novick, Lloyd F.  
     \*138, \*226, \*514
- Nycz, Gregory R . . . . . \*504
- Ocran, K . . . . . \*368  
 Ogden, Horace G . . . . . \*199
- Paladino, Diane . . . . . \*67  
 Parris, Elizabeth C . . . . 274  
 Pearl, Raymond . . . . . \*\*383  
 Pecarchik, Robert . . . . . \*72  
 Person, Philip H., Jr . . \*395  
 Peterson, Roland L . . . . \*9  
 Pobe, J. O. M. . . . . \*368
- Rabinowitz, Herbert S . . \*211  
 Raffel, Marshall W . . . . \*458  
 Ramsden, E. L . . . . . \*281  
 Reid, Richard A . . . . . \*471  
 Richie, Nicholas D . . . \*261  
 Roccella, Edward J . . . \*223  
 Ricci, Edmund . . . . . \*72
- Rogers, Constance . . . . . \*514  
 Rogers, Kenneth D . . . . \*464  
 Rosen, Beatrice M . . . . . 94  
 Rubel, Eugene J . . . . . \*3
- Sanchez, Rita M . . . . . 481  
 Savage, E. P . . . . . \*560  
 Seward, Ernest W . . . . \*317  
 Scanland, Patrick . . . . . \*360  
 Sencer, David J. (July–  
   August inside cover)  
 Serjeant, G. R . . . . . \*265  
 Shambaugh, J. Philip . . . 94  
 Shepperd, James D., Jr . \*452  
 Sinnette, Calvin . . . . . \*514  
 Somers, Anne R . . \*231, \*354  
 Simborg, Donald W . . . \*118  
 Stender, William . . . . . \*231  
 Stern, Michael . . . . . \*103  
 Stiles, C. W . . . . . \*\*563  
 Stiles, Samuel V . . . . . \*24  
 Strain, Rose S . . . . . \*133  
 Strauss, Marvin D . . . . . \*51  
 Strumpf, George B . . . . \*496  
 Surles, Kathryn B . . . . . \*556
- Tabak, Mark H . . . . . 188  
 Tessari, J. D . . . . . \*560  
 Tolsma, Dennis D . . . . \*349  
 Tomberlin, Thomas J . . \*552
- Van Baelen, Anita . . . . . \*373
- Wagner, Marguerite . . . . 273  
 Walsh, Diana Chapman . \*29  
 Webster, Evelyn G . . . . . \*533  
 Weikel, M. Keith . . . . . \*303  
 Weiss, Robert J . . . . . \*86  
 Welty, Thomas K . . . . . \*464  
 Wenzel, Frederick J . . . \*504  
 Werner, S. Benson . . . . . \*433  
 Wertheimer, Albert I . . . \*406  
 Wheeler, H. W . . . . . \*560  
 Wilkinson, Gregg S . . . . \*218  
 Williams, Karl E . . . . . \*464  
 Wills, William . . . . . \*469  
 Windle, Charles . . . . . 94  
 Wolfe, Samuel . . . . . \*412  
 Woolpert, Shirley F . . . \*276  
 Wright, Robert D . . . . . \*\*178  
 Wurapa, F. K . . . . . \*368
- Zimmerli, William H . . . \*211  
 Zimmermann, W. J . . . . \*526  
 Zwick, Daniel I . . . . . \*493